

# The Role of Social-Identity Beliefs in the Trends of Foreign Policy of Iran

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## Abstract

© 2017 Cambridge University Press. Values and elements of popular culture play an important role in shaping and implementing the foreign policy of Iran. In this paper, using content analysis and after explaining the characteristics of Iranian identity, the author seeks to investigate the implications of Iranian social beliefs on foreign policy. In other words, the author sets out to explore whether the perceptions and attitudes of Iranian identity at different historical periods have been the basis according to which Iranian politicians have followed the same model or not? For this purpose, three major components, the influence in the regional area, xenophobia, and conspiracy theory that are complementary in nature, have been selected. Research findings illustrate that the long history of societies like Iran has been the *raison d'être* for the recurrence of social beliefs and values in various political eras of such societies.

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